

## **Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 7, 2009**

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

### **GENERAL OVERVIEW:**

On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Committee voted ten (10) budget bills out of committee. The House budget plan includes transfer of fund monies to the state general fund, expenditure reductions, use of federal stimulus funding, and additional revenues. The House summary of the bills can be found at: [HB2633](#); [HB2634](#); [HB2635](#); [HB2636](#); [HB2637](#); [HB2638](#); [HB2639](#); [HB2640](#); [HB2641](#); and [HB2642](#).

(Note: these bills have been added to the Councils tracking list and can be accessed through the web report link provided in this newsletter.)

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee Summary of the House Budget Plan can be accessed at:  
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseBudgetPlanSummary5-4-09.pdf>

The JLBC summary includes details of the proposed general fund spending reductions, fund transfers, federal assistance, prior year carry forwards, additional revenues and non-tax revenues as well as a list of budget changes by agency.

To read the JLBC House Budget Reconciliation Bill (H2635) Summary, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/hbrbsummary050409.pdf>

The Governor reiterated her support for all 5 points of her Budget Plan in a press release provided at:  
[http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR\\_050709\\_StatementRe5PointPlan.pdf](http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_050709_StatementRe5PointPlan.pdf)

At the end of day 116 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is: 1111 bills posted, four (4) passed, four (4) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

**STATE LEGISLATION:**

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

**FULL LIST:**

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

***Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:***

**H2061:** Retirement; Corp; Probation Officers; Customary Employment - House Committee of the Whole, 5/7/09.

**H2629:** License Plates; Second Plate House Committee of the Whole approved as amended, 5/6/09.

***Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:***  
(None at this time.)

**Reminder:** Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and *updates to those agendas* at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

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The website **FULL List link** provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

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**Contact Your Policymakers:** If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

**Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

### **FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

#### **S. 795**

#### **Elder Justice Act of 2009**

Introduced by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) on 4/2/2009, the bill amends the Social Security Act to establish an Elder Justice program under title XX (Block Grants to States for Social Services).

The Elder Justice Act:

1. Establishes within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) an Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC).
2. Establishes the Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation.
3. Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to establish stationary and mobile forensic centers, to develop forensic expertise regarding, and provide services relating to, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
4. Directs the Secretary to provide incentives for individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment providing direct care in a long-term care (LTC) facility.
5. Directs the Secretary to make grants to LTC facilities to: (1) offer continuing training and varying levels of certification to employees who provide direct care to LTC facility residents; and (2) provide bonuses or other benefits to employees who achieve certification.

6. Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to assist LTC facilities in offsetting the costs for standardized clinical health care informatics systems designed to improve patient safety and reduce adverse events and health care complications resulting from medication errors.

7. Directs the Secretary to ensure that HHS: (1) provides funding to state and local adult protective services offices that investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and (2) collects and disseminates related data in coordination with the Department of Justice.

8. Establishes a program of annual adult protective services grants to states.

9. Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to: (1) improve the capacity of state LTC ombudsman programs to respond to and resolve abuse and neglect complaints; and (2) conduct pilot programs with state or local LTC ombudsman offices.

10. Directs the Secretary to establish programs to provide and improve ombudsman training for national organizations and state LTC ombudsman programs.

11. Amends part A of SSA title XI to require each individual owner, operator, employee, manager, agent, or contractor of an LTC facility receiving certain federal support to report to the Secretary and local law enforcement entities any reasonable suspicion of crimes occurring in such facility.

12. Requires the owner or operator of such an LTC facility to notify the Secretary and the appropriate state regulatory agency of a facility's impending closure, as well as a plan for the transfer and adequate relocation of facility residents.

13. Directs the Secretary to study and report to the EJCC and appropriate congressional committees on establishing a national nurse aide registry.

S. 795 was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 4/2/2009.  
Note: A companion bill H.R. 2006 was introduced in the House on 4/21/09 by Representative Peter T. King (R-NY-3)

To read the entire text of the legislation, go to the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

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Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

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#### **INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**May is Older Americans Month!** We encourage you to visit the Administration on Aging website to learn more about this annual recognition of our nation's seniors and access resources and tools for your celebration.

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx)

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx)

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**During Older Americans Month**, be sure to see the extensive list of mature workforce events posted on the **Mature Worker website**:

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007895>

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**In recognition of Mothers Day, CMS** (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) reminded the provider community this week to help keep women healthy through Medicare-covered preventive services.

Medicare covers mammograms, bone mass measurements, screening pap tests, and screening pelvic exams, among other services, that can help women live longer, healthier lives. The **Medicare Learning Network** (MLN) offers a variety of educational products related to Medicare-covered preventive services geared towards women. They include:

The Bone Mass Measurements brochure, which provides information on Medicare coverage of bone-mass measurements:

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/bone\\_mass.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/bone_mass.pdf) .

The Cancer Screenings brochure, which provides information on Medicare coverage of cancer screenings, including screening mammography, screening pelvic exams, and screening pap tests: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer\\_screening.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer_screening.pdf).

For additional educational products, including quick reference guides and web-based training courses, please visit the Medicare Preventive Services MLN products website at: [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35\\_PreventiveServices.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp).

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**WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse**  
**WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007**  
**For more information and to register:**  
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.pdf>

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**WHAT: Aging Services of Arizona 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exposition**  
**WHEN: June 13, 2009, Radisson Resort & Conference Center Fort McDowell**  
**For more information and to register:**  
<http://www.azaha.org/files/Conference09.pdf>

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If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov).

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Be sure to visit the Governors Office on Aging website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

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**Thank you and have a great week!**  
**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**